

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 2, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 11 are amended. No claims are added. No claims are cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

**The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,419,164 to *Durazzani* (hereinafter “*Durazzani*”).** The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, “the reference must teach every element of the claim.” The Applicant respectfully submits that *Durazzani* does not teach every element recited in claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-18 and 20 and therefore cannot anticipate these claims. More specifically, claims 1 and 11 now recite a drum-type washing machine which includes, among other features, a front outer tub that “comprises a combination of a first material and a second material, different from the first material, wherein the combination of the first and second material is injection molded to form the front outer tub.” *Durazzani* fails to disclose at least these features.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over *Durazzani*. Likewise, claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 15-18 and 20, which variously depend from claims 1 and 11 are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-18 and 20, be withdrawn.

**The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Durazzani*.** The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to “establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior

art.” The Applicant submits that *Durazzani* fails to teach or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 15-20. In particular, claims 1 and 11 now recite a drum-type washing machine, which includes, among other features, a front outer tub that “comprises a combination of a first material and a second material, different from the first material, wherein the combination of the first and second material is injection molded to form the front outer tub.” *Durazzani* fails to teach or fairly suggest at least these features.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over *Durazzani*. Likewise, claims 2, 5-10, 12, and 15-20, which variously depend from claims 1 and 11 are also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-12, and 15-20 as being obvious over *Durazzani*, be withdrawn.

**The Office Action rejected claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Durazzani* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,196,506 to *Tamai et al.* (hereinafter “*Tamai*”) or U.S. Patent No. 5,171,769 to *Bull et al.* (hereinafter “*Bull*”) or U.S. Patent No. 4,136,079 to *Katayama et al.* (hereinafter “*Katayama*”).** The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As previously discussed, *Durazzani* fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11, the independent claims from which claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 depend. Moreover, *Tamai*, *Bull*, and *Katayama* fail to address the previously noted shortcomings of *Durazzani*. In fact, they are relied upon only to teach a plastic material combined with a specific second material blended, such as calcium carbonate, aluminum powder and iron powder. Therefore, even if *Durazzani* was modified as suggested, the modified teaching still fails to teach or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 11, namely a washing machine comprising a front outer tub that “comprises a combination of a first material and a second material, different from the first material, wherein the combination of the first and second material is injection molded to form the front outer tub.” Since *Durazzani* in view of *Tamai*, *Bull*, or *Katayama* fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1 and 11, the teaching of *Durazzani* in view of *Tamai*, *Bull*, or *Katayama* does not render the claimed invention obvious. Therefore, the Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 13 and 14, which variously depend from claims 1 and 11, are patentably


and 14, which variously depend from claims 1 and 11, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references and request that 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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